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**Letter dated 26 April 2002 from the Permanent Representatives of Portugal, the Russian Federation and the United States of America addressed to the President of the Security Council**

We have the honour to forward herewith a joint statement of the observer countries to the Angolan peace process read in the open meeting of the Security Council on the situation in Angola held on 23 April 2002 (see annex).

We should be grateful if you could kindly arrange to have this statement circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Francisco **Seixas da Costa**
Permanent Representative of Portugal
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Sergei V. **Lavrov**
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) John D. **Negroponte**
Permanent Representative of the United States of America
to the United Nations

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## Annex to the letter dated 26 April 2002 from the Permanent Representatives of Portugal, the Russian Federation and the United States of America addressed to the President of the Security Council

## Common position of the Troika for presentation at the Security Council briefing on Angola by Under-Secretary-General Ibrahim Gambari (23 April 2002)

Since the United Nations Security Council met to consider Angola in late March, several momentous events have taken place. On 30 March, the Government of Angola and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) military representatives reached a ceasefire and demobilization agreement. Following that, the sides formally signed the agreement on 4 April in a ceremony witnessed by the Troika and attended by other national and international observers.

It was evident from that ceremony, and the national celebration that followed, that Angolans believe their long nightmare of almost constant conflict since achieving independence is over. The Troika joins the international community in praising the courage of all parties in taking this important step and making clear their understanding that prosperity, democracy, and national reconciliation — not bloodshed — should be the future of the Angolan people.

The ceasefire agreement is a turning point in Angolan history. We applaud the Government's efforts in reaching this agreement and in following up on its important call for peace of 13 March. We also are pleased by the agreement's general acceptance within the ranks of UNITA, including among its parliamentarians in Luanda and those abroad associated with UNITA. We now call upon all UNITA-associated persons to take the next step — to rebuild their party and pursue their political aims peacefully.

The Troika again welcomes the intention of the Government of Angola to provide conditions which will permit UNITA to resolve internally and freely the problems of its leadership and reorganization, and in this context recalls the speech made by President dos Santos to his nation on 3 April. In that statement of hope, the President called for the "reunion of the great Angolan family". President dos Santos also noted that it is important for Angolans to "forsake feelings of hatred and vengeance". The Troika agrees and looks forward to the spirit of reconciliation further spreading out through Angolan society.

This national reconciliation must encompass not only those who fought, but also those who suffered. The Angolan people must be part of national reconciliation and, in this sense, we applaud both the Government's and UNITA's understanding that all of society, including the churches, peaceful political parties, and civic and professional organizations must play an important role in the post-conflict socio-economic rehabilitation of the country, thereby helping to create a positive atmosphere for continued dialogue between the Government and UNITA.

The Troika further believes that Angolans must build upon their recent successes to guarantee peace and future prosperity. It calls upon the Government to put in place quickly the cantonment areas for UNITA forces to make it possible for UNITA troops to concentrate in those locations. The Government also must redouble

its efforts on the humanitarian front, since the healing of the Angolan people will be incomplete as long as 4 million persons are internally displaced and 500,000 are abroad as refugees.

We welcome the reconstitution of the Joint Military Commission to oversee the ceasefire. This Commission should run in as transparent a manner as possible to reassure all that the decisions it reaches are arrived at consensually. In a similar manner, the Troika looks forward to the reconstitution of the Joint Political Commission as soon as the parties are prepared to take their seats.

Many challenges lie ahead for the Angolan people. The last few weeks have given us confidence that these will be overcome, mainly through the resources and ingenuity of the Angolan people themselves. Again, we applaud what has been accomplished and look hopefully to what will come.

In closing, members of the Troika wish to underscore once again the valuable role that the United Nations and Under-Secretary-General Ibrahim Gambari have played in the peace process. Within the responsibilities the Troika assumed under the Lusaka Protocol, we are prepared to continue to assist the cause of national reconciliation in Angola.